and 36809 'Partially Covered' habitation in Assam.

(c) The State Government has prepared an Action Plan to provide safe drinking water to the remaining habitations during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Allotment of Land

273. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3162 dated 18.12.1995 regarding allotment of land and state :

(a) whether the infomation has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/ proposed to be taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) One Man Inquiry Committee headed by Shri R.M. Vatsa, I.A.S. (Retd.) was constituted on 10.12.1994. The Inquiry Officer resigned without submitting any report. So far, no case of sale/transfer has been reported to the authorities. However, there may have been Benami transactions of such lands. As the house sites are allotted at a very nominal lease rent for nine years only and also without realising cost of the land to the weaker sections of the society who do not own any house, by allowing them to transfer or sell these plots, the Government do not want them to be houseless again. Therefore, the permission to sell/transfer is not granted.

[Translation]

Hydel Projects of Bihar

274. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the hydel projects of north Chhotanagpur of Bihar included in Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the amount likely to be spent on the said projects and the time by which the works of the said projects are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The details of hydel power projects under construction in Chhotanagpur belt of Bihar and proposed for inclusion in 9th Five Year Plan are as follows :

Sl. No.	Name of Projects/ Capacity (MW)	Expenditure upto 3/97	Latest cost	Comm-issioning Target
1.	North Koel (24) (Palamu Distt.)	35.99	47.34	1998-99
2.	Chandil LBC (8) (Singh Bhum Distt.)	17.89	32.49	1998-99

[English]

Hiring of Private Producers by Doordarshan

275. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whther Doordarshan plans to commission private producers for making news capsules for its news bulletins; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

N.T.P.C.

276. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :
SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "fresh row over NTPC simhadri plant" appearing in the 'News Time' dated 12 June, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the case; and

(c) the progress made in the construction of proposed power plant in Visakhapatnam ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Union Government has since accorded investment approval for setting up of this project.

(c) Measures for land acquisition for the main plant area of the project have been initiated.